

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's **OTHER** Newspaper

NEXT STOP: DISASTER?

Protest Against Nuclear Train

A major initiative against the transport of nuclear waste through London, and Hackney in particular, is planned for Saturday January 26th.

Hackney Anti-Nuclear Group (HANG) has organised a local demonstration to oppose the transportation of potentially lethal cargoes. This will coincide with a London-wide demonstration on the same day. HANG's demo will start from Highbury and Islington Station at 10.30 a.m. and finish at Hackney Town Hall in time to allow people to join the London Regional Anti-Nuclear Alliance's demo in the afternoon. HANG is the group which has been campaigning longest on the specific issue of the movement of nuclear material through London. Since they first drew the public's attention to the issue in March 1979 it has received widespread attention in the press and from numerous concerned groups.

Security

The potential for disaster was graphically highlighted in November when three campaigners posing as 'terrorists' took a (fake) 'rocket launcher' to Stratford station and 'fired' it at an actual container of nuclear material. Fortunately, the incident was not for real, but it demonstrated the ease with which a small number of people could have rendered a large area uninhabitable for perhaps 125 years.

British Rail have maintained, in the past, that nuclear materials are shipped under strict

security. This showed how untrue this is. No one attempted to stop these peaceful campaigners. In any case, are we prepared to pay the price in civil liberties if the measures needed to effectively safeguard all radioactive materials, wherever they are, were taken?

HANG are uncompromisingly opposed to nuclear power. They are certain that the only solution to the problem is to end the nuclear power programme. The transportation of waste and fuel around the country is only one aspect of a vast and hazardous business.

Expansion

Thatcher's government has made its intentions clear - they wish to rapidly expand the nuclear programme. Yet on the issue of transportation alone we have clear evidence showing the dangers involved. There was a derailment on the North London Line in October. Such an accident involving the release of radioactivity would result in the need for mass evacuation, or deaths.

HANG is hoping for strong grass roots support for the demo. Their march will follow the North London Line, via Canonbury Station, Mildmay Grove, Balls Pond Road, Dalston Junction station and

Graham Road to the Town Hall. Stalls and a convoy of bicycles to lead the march should help to make the affair a more lively event than the usual protest.

The London-wide demo starts at Primrose Hill Fields Playground (Chalk Farm tube), assembling at 1.00p.m. It is hoped there will be transport there from Hackney Town Hall.

OPPOSE THE 'FRIGHT TRAINS'
- SATURDAY JANUARY 26th.



Pic: Trojan

25% RENT SHOCK FOR COUNCIL TENANTS

Hackney Council rents will almost certainly rise by about 25% in April this year. This is on top of the planned rate rise, which will probably be about 50%. These are the figures quoted in the Council's preliminary budgets for 1980-1.

These figures have yet to be approved by the relevant Council committees, but it looks very likely as though this will be a formality. Some councillors have already criticised Council officers for making the decision before they were consulted.

The main culprit is, once again, the Tory Government which is exerting such strong pressure on local authorities that they are having to plan such increases.

The Federation of Hackney Tenants' Associations have

immediately condemned the rent rises. "This comes on top of the increase in heating charges announced in December," HPP was told, "and with the rate rise also means that tenants are being hit in three ways."

Councillor Gerry Ross who has had the Labour whip withdrawn in the past for voting against rent increases, said that there would be some opposition to the proposal when it came to a vote. It seems likely that it will, however, go through.

As if to add insult to injury, tenants will, of course, also be hit if the Council is forced to make cuts in services - which are also highly likely. There will certainly be a reduction in numbers in the

housing department - which will mean that repairs will take even longer to come through and the plans for the reintroduction of resident caretakers will be put back still further. This will be particularly galling for the Council leadership, who are; always being taunted by "lone Tory Joe" about this issue.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We are sorry for the late arrival of your favourite local newspaper this month. We always have certain difficulties in producing a paper over the holiday period - but we hope to be back on schedule by the February issue!

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INSIDE NF HQ

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GOODBYE '70s

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FAREWELL TO THE 70s

'SAY GOODBYE, YOU MAY NEVER SEE THEM AGAIN'

In the second half of his review of the decade as seen through the eyes of Hackney's community press, KEN WORPOLE looks at the events of the past 5 years, from James White's Abortion Bill to HPP's 50th birthday.

The May 1975 edition of HPP described the big local campaign against the James White Abortion Bill. In fact, the whole edition was about health, a local issue on which the alternative press has always been streets ahead of the Hackney Gazette. There was an up-to-date report on the Stop The Road Campaign, a local pressure group organised to stop the plan to extend the East London Motorway from Hackney Wick to Dalston, no less. That would have involved knocking down all of Morning Lane, Graham Road and Dalston Lane. A Hackney Marsh Fun Festival was announced for July 12 and 13.

One of the most bitterly fought redevelopment plans, the Barbauld Road Scheme, was reported in the HPP for July 1975. The Stoke Newington Community Association argued for rehabilitation, but council policy was still heady with the whiff of demolition smoke and dust. The council won. It is still too early to say whether the new housing will suffer the same faults as the Smalley Estate. There was nearly a year's gap between this issue of HPP and the next, May 1976. The revived HPP contained an article on the newly-formed Hackney Nursery Campaign to argue for more full-time day care in community and council nurseries. Centerprise's fifth birthday was announced.

In July 1976, Hackney Committee Against Racism organised a march through Hoxton to protest against the increase in personal violence by local National Front supporters towards local black families, and the enormous increase in racist graffiti in the Hoxton area. The September edition announced the loss of 400 jobs through local area health authority cuts in services, particularly at St Leonards's and the Hackney Hospital. HCAR was continuing to express alarm at the increasing racist graffiti now painted throughout Hackney. Pink aerosol, "Happy Birthday April 22nd" (Hitler's birthday), widely sprayed, was evidence of the growing local strength of the British Movement.

The Christmas edition of HPP had an article about the Half Moon Theatre and their recent spectacular success with the play, "George Davis Is Innocent ...OK", which had been extended twice and ran for an amazing ten weeks. There was a small reference to the three GLC councillors for Hackney, Dr David Pitt, Ellis Hillman and Irene Chaplin, the "persons un-



Funeral cortege for Michael Ferreira - January 1979

known" of local representative democracy, whose presence during the decade was made most conspicuous by its absence.

ratpit

In February 1977, the big story in HPP was the nationally famous John Pilger article in the Daily Mirror on Hackney Hospital: "Hackney, where poverty these days is almost a presence in the streets, was at the bottom of the heap when the hospital was built last century and it is still there". Mr Roland Moyle, Minister of State for Health, toured the "ratpit hospital", as it had become known, and was forced by junior doctors to see the bits that hadn't been specially painted just for his visit. The Metropolitan Hospital was closed and the patients moved. An emergency supplement reported the arrest of local journalist Crispin Aubrey, one of the three ABC defendants.

In May 1977, there was an article about the campaign against the Benyon Bill to limit abortion rights. In September, the HPP front page reported on the arson attempt on Centerprise which had caused considerable damage. This happened in a month of fire-bombings and arson attempts on alternative and left bookshops. The police investigations were marked by the intensity and rigorosity of their non-activity. Open violence was becoming a trademark of local fascists. In October, there was a large anti-racist march from Shoreditch Park to Victoria Park, organised by the Hackney Committee Against Racism.

The December issue that year brought into use the

term "Partnership", announcing generous gifts to Hackney from central state funds, money that hadn't even been asked for. Partnership was to become for many people and organisations in Hackney what the cargo cults were for the Trobriand Islanders. Numerous local projects well thought out and campaigned for, had died during the decade for want of funds. Suddenly, funds were available for projects that were dreamed up overnight without any substantial community roots. Meanwhile, while large sums of money were being announced to help combat poverty and demoralisation in an area such as Hackney, Hackney's firemen were sitting outside locked-up fire stations day and night in terrible weather in support of a pay claim that would just about bring them above the poverty line and its associated demoralisation. They didn't get their money.

biggest

The May 1978 edition of HPP ran its major feature on the amazing anti-racist Carnival organised by the Anti-Nazi League on April 30 at Victoria Park. Some 60,000 people marched to the park to listen to the rock groups organised by Rock Against Racism. It was the biggest political crowd in Hackney probably since the Chartists gathered at Bonner's Fields (next to Victoria Park) in 1848 to march on Parliament. The following month's HPP reported the sobering news of the murder of local tailor Ishaq Ali, stabbed and killed on his way home from work in the Homerton area. Racist murders were becoming a feature of East London life and the following month saw Black Solidarity Day on

July 17, when thousands of black workers went on strike for the day to protest at racist killings such as that of Altab Ali. In September, the National Front opened their new headquarters, Excalibur House, in Shoreditch, Hackney. On December 10, young West Indian Michael Ferreira was knifed and killed in Stoke Newington in another racist murder. His funeral was held on Saturday January 20, 1979, and a large and dignified procession followed the hearse from Michael's home in Homerton to Stoke Newington Police Station where he had been detained before being sent to hospital. Amongst the mourners was local teacher Blair Peach, whose own funeral was to follow very shortly after, on June 13, when a procession of 10,000 people followed Blair's body to the East London Cemetery. Blair Peach had died as a result of a blow struck by a member of the Special Patrol Group at Southall on April 23. The inquest has still not been held. Both were windswept, rainy days.

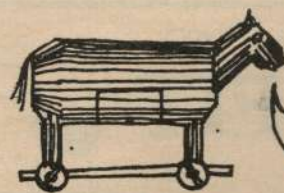
fiasco

In the May edition of HPP there was a long account of the problems tenants were having on the Smalley Estate. It was a new estate but within weeks of occupation tenants found the houses uninhabitable. The council carried on building other houses using the same design, even whilst the Smalley fiasco was under investigation. In September, Hackney got a new Police Commander, Mr David Mitchell. He had once been overheard by Evening Standard journalists to agree that many police officers were sympathetic to the National Front: "And why not? They're the only party that speaks up for Britain". The sort of new police commander that a multi-racial borough like Hackney needs, as the old street traders' saying goes, like three wet Sundays in a row.

In November 1979, "Hackney People's Press", the longest survivor of them all, achieved its fiftieth edition. The decade ended with cuts in public services, a new Immigration bill in the offing, rising unemployment and more and more people below the poverty line. In fact, nothing changed from the beginning of the decade until the end. Except at least we don't now have a Tory council in Hackney. In fact, comparing the end of the 1970s with the beginning is like comparing the "Spot the Difference" competitions in newspapers where two very similar drawings are set side by side and you have to find the ten minor points of difference. The differences largely are in the many autonomous self-managing community projects now established in the borough: community nurseries, places like Chats Palace, Centerprise, the Under Fives Committee and the whole variety of pressure groups and single-issue campaigns as well as the many political groups which did not exist ten years ago. The women's movement has also played a very important part in Hackney politics in the past decade. On the whole, the succession of alternative local papers have played a role in keeping groups in touch with each other, letting people know what is happening, and have made a record of what people did and how and why they did it. The look back through an incomplete collection of the alternative papers has left many important local issues unmentioned. What has been positive has been to have seen the first appearance of many projects that play such an important part in Hackney's life today. What has been sad is to have been reminded of the many projects that failed, the people who disappeared. Say goodbye, you may never see them again...

KEN WORPOLE

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VERY GOOD, EDDIE!

My story this month has taken me the few hundred yards from Hackney Town Hall to the comfortable home on Trelawney Estate of Mr Eddie Millen. Mr Millen is the Sir Geoffrey Howe of Hackney politics, the man with his finger on the financial pulse. (His style is not so different from the dashing baronet, the man of whom Denis Healey once said: "Being attacked by Sir Geoffrey Howes like being savaged by a dead sheep." Mr Millen could be described in much the same way.)

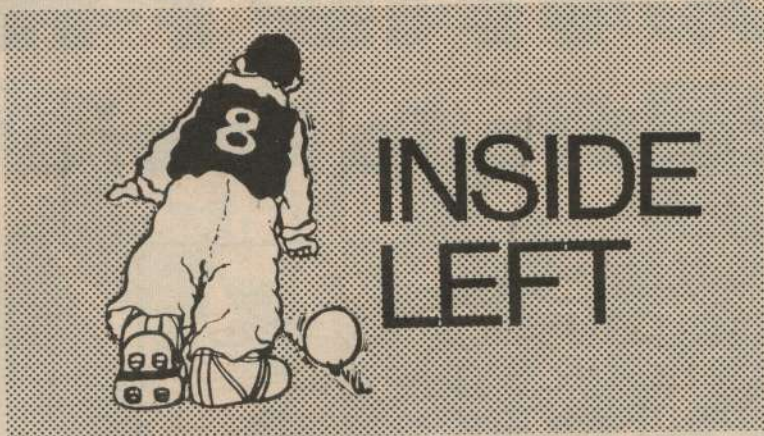
Destiny has pointed to Eddie Millen as being the man who will have to make the public pronouncements about how much the rates will rise this year. It is a hapless task, and one which doubtless is heavy on his shoulders as he trudges along Paragon Road. For whatever he does he will be vilified by someone.

Let's examine what he can possibly do. He can announce that the Council's budget for next year, 1980/1, will go ahead unchanged and that the funding for it will have to be met by Hackney, if the Tory government refuses to allow any increase in central government support. The necessary rate rise, according to a few sheets of paper that blew in my direction from the finance directorate in Stoke Newington to the Town Hall in Mare Street, would be a staggering 90 per cent. Now a rise of that sort would be shouted down by almost everyone, both Tory and Labour. So we can assume that that is not an option that is going through Eddie's mind.

OPPOSITE

On the other hand, there are plenty - well, a few - who would support him in taking the exactly opposite option. This is the fabled slogan: "No cuts! No redundancies! No rate increases!" (You can tell that this is an extreme left demand by the use of the obligatory exclamation mark.) The theory behind this is that Hackney would continue its same level of services - and refuse to put up the rates at all. Now this would lead to a cash flow problem some time later on this year. Then the Council would declare itself bankrupt, it would explain the situation to the people of Hackney, and somehow, the situation would be resolved. Presumably, the people would wield their enormous industrial and political muscle to bring down the government, nationalise the banks, abolish the IMF and create the People's Republic of Hackney. This solution to the problem, however, does not find favour with Eddie. He is, perhaps, not quite the stuff of whom revolutionaries are made.

Then there is the middle road, and this is the path Eddie and his chums will find themselves treading. There will be a rate rise, certainly. But it will be a "mere" 50 per cent or so. (Howls of anguish from the Tories in fur coats who were so predominant at the Council's open meeting last November.) But there will be cuts in services. (Shouts of "Judas!" from



left councillors, the public sector unions, the trades council, the new committee against the cuts, and so on.) Our hands are tied, the leadership will argue. We will not place the jobs of our employees in jeopardy. We are responsible men and women.

Somewhere at the back of their minds there might be a still small voice that will also say: "Yes, you are responsible men and women. You are responsible to the people who elected you, as members of the Labour party, to serve as their elected representatives on a council for four years. It is no business of yours to make cuts. You are a representative of the Labour movement, entrusted with an awesome amount of power, by other members of your movement. Do you remember what George Lansbury wrote when Poplar Council was under similar attack nearly 60 years ago? 'What Labour councils do when they get power is the whole question of whether they mean business.' Don't you forget that."

But they will forget that; they have forgotten it already. And that is why old grey Eddie will make an old grey speech. Very good, Eddie, if that's how you think it should be. But do you think that's what the people want?

PARTISAN PIECE

Anxious to mount the most effective campaign possible against the government cuts, shop stewards representing council employees wrote to the council requesting a joint meeting to discuss tactics for the fight. This caused a certain flutter in the hearts of our brave leadership. This is because many of the officials who represent the staff in negotiations with the council are in various political organisations.

So now the leadership made the brave decision that they wouldn't meet any old trade unionists, not even if they were elected by the union members they represent. But they would meet trade unionists who were members of the Labour Party. Otherwise, as one highly-placed council member was heard to say, they "would have to meet Communist Party members and Uncle Tom Cobbley and all."

These are the same leaders who were quick to sign a petition last month supporting Derek Robinson, the Communist shop steward at British Leyland who was sacked by his employers. It seems that this is a case of supporting the devil you don't know rather than the one you do.

Village life plan

Dear HPP

Many people now find city life very overwhelming. Industry and commerce have combined with the bureaucracy to convince us that life's fulfilment is a big bank balance and a TV dinner and that "Happiness is a cigar called Hamlet". Unfortunately, in modern society, this is all too often the case, we must buy food and clothes, we must pay for a place to live in



and we must furnish it, not to mention all the "every home should have one" products which the media continually thrust upon us.

When we realise the pressures upon us from such a lifestyle and live amid poverty and overcrowding, when we suffer from the effects of overexposure to alcohol and drugs, greed and dishonesty, pollution and disease, we are often

overcome by a great unwillingness to perform the highly questionable duties of which ever social class we find we have been allocated to.

We are a small group of people who live in various parts of London who have in common a desire to live with other people in rural surroundings without the isolation and social starvation often associated with life in the country. We envisage a village scale community, whereby people of diverse talents can work with each other and with the Earth equally, towards self-sufficiency, sharing and acquiring skills and thus providing a common wealth.

It may be possible for community housing associations to aid us in the acquisition and conversion of premises, but all agricultural land, tools, stock, etc we hope to purchase by tithing income over the next few years.

If you have any interest in the project please contact me at 101 Rushmore Rd., E5 or ring 985 2541.

Yours sincerely,
Eddie Diver.

Help for mums & kids

Several mother and toddler groups have been set up and run by local women over the past six years. Some groups meet once a week, others more often. Some have a programme of activities, but mainly they are a place to meet other parents whilst toddlers have an opportunity to mix and play with others.

The Hackney Under Fives Committee, funded by Inner City Partnership money, have just appointed a Mother and Toddler Club Organiser, Lorraine Worpole.

Lorraine will offer support to the existing 24 mother and toddler clubs and help new groups get started, especially on estates and in areas where there is little under-fives provision. The GLC and Hackney Council have offered to make ground floor "hard to let" flats available as Play Flats, and Lorraine would like to hear from anyone interested in organising a mother and toddler club in their area. She can advise on equipment, regulations, grants, etc and put you in touch with other groups. Contact Lorraine on 249 4618 or c/o Hackney Under Fives, 136 Kingsland High St., E8.

Cheap Nosh

At No 1 Cazenove Road, N16 (off Stoke Newington High Street, Stamford Hill end), there is a "Cheap Kitchen" where you can get a cheap vegetarian meal for 65p, on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings, 7 pm-9 pm, and Saturday lunchtimes 12 pm-2 pm.

It is run by members of the Ananda Marga Spiritual Movement, who also run the wholefood shop next door, Food For All, a playgroup, women's centre, meditation class and more recently, a natural healing centre.

The meal comprises of a savoury dish and two or more vegetables, a sweet flan or cake and also a cup of herbal tea. No eggs or fish are used in the cooking. You should not feel inhibited by the movement, as it is not forced upon you, but the proprietors are willing to talk about their religion if asked about it.

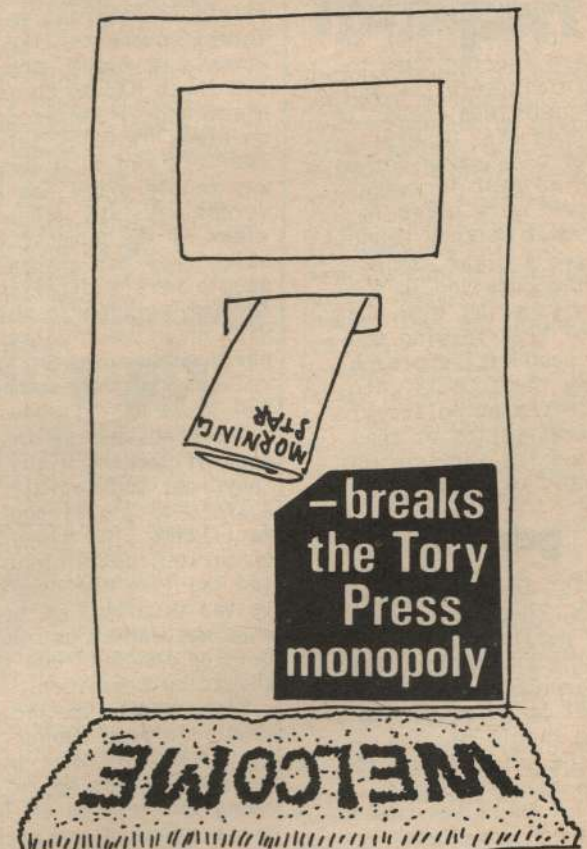
Local Study

Following on from the "What's Left For Hackney?" conference, we are hoping to establish a study group in the local economy to look at changing employment patterns etc.

Come along to a planning meeting on Tuesday 15 January at Centerprise, 6.30 pm, and contact Graham Birkin, c/o Centerprise.

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JOINING THE PIECES

How Does Left Relate To Real Needs?

Perhaps the major significance of last month's "What's Left For Hackney?" conference was that it brought together for the second time in six months a large number of people from political parties, the Council, trade unions and community groups to discuss ideas and strategies in a cooperative and practical way.

For many people, the left is characterised by a lack of practical and meaningful policies, by a defensive rather than an offensive approach to politics and by interminable in-fighting. It would be wrong to pretend that conferences like this produce an immediate reconciliation. It is fair to say, however, that there is an increasing recognition by the left that the ideological battle now confronting it will not be won by total fragmentation, inadequate consideration of theoretical perspectives and failure to develop new ways of working and winning people for socialism.

The fightback against the Tory onslaught on public services was a major focus of attention at the conference and a variety of views on tactics were expressed. Some felt the councillors should resign en masse if they could not get approval for budgets to maintain and improve services, and then campaign for re-election. One speaker advocated a policy of massive rate increases on the part of all Labour councils to show people what the Tories were forcing them to do to maintain services and to avoid individual councils being picked off. Others called for a campaign for no rates and no rent increases. Most present were united in the view that Hackney Council should take a clear stand against the cuts and in the context discussion took place on ways of transforming the militant Labourist approach dominating the Council into genuine left-wing policies. The democratisation of the council and its services was also a topic of great concern.

gap

Socialist feminist Sheila Rowbotham, co-author of the recently published book, "Beyond The Fragments", told the conference that the left had to get to grips with what socialism should be. The Tories, she pointed out, can lay claim to what already exists. But there was often a gap between immediate struggles and future goals for socialists. The traditional strategy of nationalisation, for example, was no good without the demand for democratic control by workers. In terms of welfare and health services, the questions of quality and the type of provision as well as quantity had to be raised.

"We need to think about socialism in the place we're in, rather than just generally," she said, and she

criticised some of the traditional approaches of the left. There were real conflicts of interest in different movements like the women's movement, she said, but those had to be recognised and alliances formed on areas of faint interest. The left had to understand why people organised in different ways and had to be clear of the purpose for which they had grouped. Some people were radicalised through working in movements with or without political party membership and ways of relating to these movements had to be established.

She stressed the importance of working within "physical and social space". In the struggle for facilities like playgrounds, nurseries, better housing and the like the people involved usually knew best what was wanted and would develop ideas of how they should be organised.

Stuart Weir, ex-Hackney councillor and Labour party activist, said that there was no coherent approach among the left on an ideological approach and policies, but that the way forward was not to try to unite around specific sets of policies but to look at wide questions, for example: How does the left relate to the local council? He argued that the council represented a real resource for local people both in alleviating deprivation and campaigning. But Hackney Council was dominated by people who had taken on themselves the old ideas they were seeking to replace. A socialist

council, he said, should be distinguished by the attention of people employed to the people they served.

Stuart Weir stressed the importance of opening up communications between the left and the community. "How should Hackney People's Press be developed? How should the Rio function as an entertainment and cultural centre?" These were the kind of issue to take up and he emphasised the central importance of the Hackney Health Campaign.

He urged that the left must hammer home the point that the interests of the ruling class were being extended. The cuts should not be presented purely in terms of public services. There were also cuts in investment and in the local economy.

resign

Stuart Weir argued that it was a mistake to believe the effects of the cuts could be averted by juggling with the rates. Cuts in capital spending have been taking place for years, he pointed out, inhibiting the buying and building of houses, the improvement of refuse services through investment, the development of nursery facilities. It was wrong, he believed, to put up rates to maintain current expenditure when the government was taking money away. People related the standard of the refuse service to their rates. "Labour councils should resign en masse after having proposed realistic budgets to the community and central government and had them turned down. Nothing will

teach people what the Tories are about better than having commissioners in town halls."

After workshop sessions in the afternoon on communication and cooperation on the left, democracy and the Council, organisation on large workplaces and estates and the fightback against the cuts, the final general session was addressed by Ted Knight and David Green.

Ted Knight, the leader of Lambeth Council, spoke mainly about the campaign being waged in Lambeth against the cuts. Unlike most other Labour controlled boroughs, the fightback there is being led by the Council itself. The main objectives of any campaign should be, he argued, to protect the living standards of the working class, local services and the jobs of council employees. More than this, he saw the campaign as having a positive role also: "a fight to show that there is an alternative to the Tories' proposals."

There would be, however, he said, no future for one single council, Lambeth, in standing alone against the government. He had been at a conference of Labour councillors a few weeks previously, and all except three argued that it would be impossible to make no cuts at all - but this is what Lambeth intended to do.

As for rate increases, he also argued that a position of fighting for no cuts and no rate increases would inevitably lead to a confrontation with the district auditor, the government official whose job is to keep

tabs on local authority spending, in March 1980. Lambeth proposed to put forward a rate increase which would meet the projected services - then the Council would fight the government in the autumn when the supplementary money for rate support would be due. He said that there was massive public support for the stand that they were taking. They had actually gained a seat from the Tories in a council by-election by fighting on this platform.

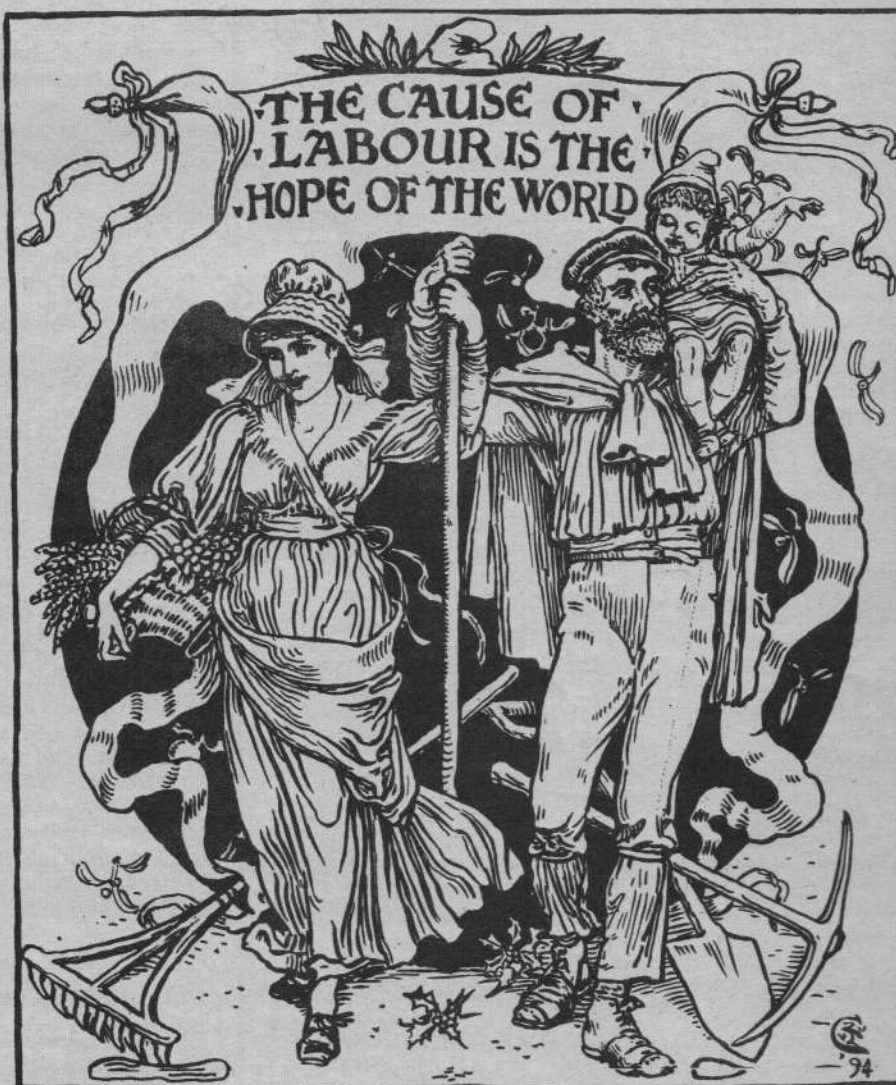
David Green, secretary of the Hackney Communist Party, gave the last main speech. He had the difficult task of trying to talk to the subject of the last session, socialist strategy and local objectives, when Ted Knight had concentrated on the fightback against the cuts. His main theme was the lack of any structure for democratic participation inside the borough's institutions, and this he urged should be the main priority for local socialists. Far too few people are involved, he said, and one of the main aims of the left should be how to broaden the base of the organisations that already exist so that they can speak for the people. The role of socialists should be campaigning work, and it was vitally important in this work that we ensured that people in unorganised groups should be involved. The bulk of people who might consider themselves to be socialists are not in political parties, he said.

involvement

He was most concerned that socialists developed a perspective towards the 1982 Council elections. "How can we generate more involvement of community groups, tenants' associations and other such bodies in the choosing of councillors and in the drafting of the manifesto?" he asked. The role of Labour councillors was not to be members of the ruling class, but to be representatives of the Labour movement.

Speeches from the floor mainly centred round the attitude that the Council should take about the cuts. Several councillors present wanted to move further than Ted Knight's proposals for Lambeth and said that there should be a policy of no cuts, and no rate increases. Ted Knight thought that that was an unrealistic policy, and that most Labour boroughs were unlikely to support such demands.

There was very little discussion about a proposal presented in a written paper and supported by a workshop discussion some sort of socialist forum should be set up in Hackney, but it was agreed that everybody present would be written to for their views. This paper is still available from Hackney People's Press, and you can get a copy by sending a stamped addressed envelope to HPP, c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.



NF bluster over HQ

After five days spent presiding over the planning enquiry into the National Front's use of a building in Great Eastern Street, Shoreditch, Mr Leo Kealey, the inspector from the Department of the Environment, sighed wearily. "The amount of planning evidence that I have heard so far is negligible. You have presented none," he said to Michael Gettleston, the barrister representing the firms of NF Properties Ltd, Leachouse Ltd and Benjuya Ltd, "and Mr Reed-Herbert has presented none." Reed-Herbert is a member of the NF Directorate and is legally representing the Front. He is also in the strange position of, apparently, no longer being a member of the NF, if press reports from Leicester, saying that the NF branch there has turned into a completely new party, are to be believed.

The most sensational witness before the enquiry adjourned for Christmas was undoubtedly "Simon Read" (not his real name) an anarchist who joined the NF in 1978, and who served as a nightguard in the disputed premises. He told the enquiry that any suggestion that the NF headquarters were in Leicester, or anywhere else other than the so-called Excalibur House, was a "farce".

Simon Read described in detail the layout of the building and how the NF already use it as their headquarters. Each of the three leaders, John Tyndall, Martin Webster and Richard Verrall has an office there. Verrall's is decorated with a bookshelf half filled with books about Goebbels. The conference room has the Annigoni portrait of the queen (how patriotic!) on the wall. He saw a pickaxe handle with the words "Jew beater" written on the handle. There was a map on the wall



Derrick Day and his Jewish friend, also in the NF, Jerry Weiner.

of the whole of Britain with little flags stuck in representing local NF groups. All this evidence is very convincing, but he told the inspector that when he paid his official visit to the premises all these details would be removed. And, it seems, indeed they were.

HPP went to press the day after the enquiry resumed in January. This began with the sensational revelations from Leicester, which were coupled with the information that the row between NF Properties, the company formed by members of the NF to buy Excalibur House, and the Front itself, had blown up into the property company serving a notice to quit on the NF's Publicity Department (the only part of the NF which they admit occupy any part of the building.).

The Front then called local thug Derrick Day as their next witness, who put on the most amazing display of bullying and blustering behaviour. He alleged that none of the papers present would print what he said because they "were all under the thumb of the yids." He said in his statement that the building was the "NF HQ"

and then denied that that meant National Front headquarters. He said that weapons were not kept on the premises, but he thought that they ought to be (because he alleged that Simon Read and the Council had conspired together (all of them!) to murder him or maim him with acid.) He told the barrister representing the Hackney Council for Racial Equality that he ought to go and practice racial equality in his own country, Israel. Then he alleged that he was not against all Jews, and singled out another local fascist, Jerry Weiner, as being Jewish and in the NF.

Even before Derrick Day opened his big mouth, the NF were obviously doing very badly in presenting any kind of case to the Inspector. It remains to be seen whether any planning evidence will be brought by the Council itself which will convince him of the necessity of getting rid of the NF once and for all. The enquiry will be completed by the time the next issue of HPP is printed, but it will be some time after that before the official result is known.

Community Under Attack

Tower Hamlets Trades Council and the Hackney Legal Action Group, an organisation of local lawyers, have just published a disturbing new booklet about the arrests in Brick Lane in the summer of 1978. It is called "Brick Lane 1978: the case for the defence" and was launched at the Trades Council concert in memory of Blair Peach on Sunday 25 November.

In the week before the enquiry into the NF headquarters in Great Eastern Street, half a mile from Brick Lane, the report makes sobering reading. The lawyers conclude:

"in all of the incidents... in which racists and anti-racists were involved, the police arrested mainly or only anti-racists... There appear to be a disturbing number of cases where defendants alleged they had been set upon by racists... It is these cases which make it difficult to resist the con-

clusion... that the police were partial in making arrests".

The lawyers also criticise what took place in the courts, particularly the unprecedented use of the "bind-over" and bail conditions... "the obvious purpose of the bail conditions was to curb political activity... As the police were arresting large numbers of anti-racists they were able to take increasing numbers of them away from Brick Lane for months because of the bail conditions.

Pattern

Neither the police activity, nor the action of the courts has done much to curb racist attacks in the area or the continuing pattern of racist provocation in Brick Lane."

The booklet details the work of a defence campaign set up by the local community to support those who had been arrested. It offers advice, based on their exper-

ience, to other victims of "police impartiality", and draws political lessons from the anti-racist movement. "In our view, the Home Office was responsible for the violence of 1978. The parallels between police activity in Brick Lane and Southall and the army in the streets of Northern Ireland are striking. An exercise which had been presented to the local community as vital to its own protection and to keeping the peace soon led to demands from the community for protection from their new protectors."

The pamphlet has a foreword by Ernie Roberts, Labour MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington. The booklet "Brick Lane 1978: The Case For The Defence" (90p) and the poster "Brick Lane 1978 - A Community Under Attack" (35p) are available from Tower Hamlets Trades Council, 2 Cable Street, E1.



for better health services now

The Hackney Health Campaign was set up earlier this year to fight against the Government's proposed cuts in the Health Service, and to campaign for a better standard of health care for the people of Hackney. We have asked them to write regular articles each month, to keep readers informed of the latest developments in the fightback.

Tory health plans

In its attack on "wasteful spending", the Government has published its proposals to streamline the National Health Service.

In a document entitled *Patients First* (HMSO £1), the government sets out plans to abolish two thirds of the present number of Area Health Authorities by 1983. The existing AHAs will be supplemented by about 150 new district health authorities.

The report emphasises how this 'streamlining' will save as much as £30m. annually, which will be made available for essential patient services. However, according to Ruth Levitt (*New Statesman*, 21/12/79), any financial savings which will result from these changes will take many years to materialise. She also points out that, despite the apparent simplification of the Health Service, "there is no guarantee that it will make the NHS more in touch with local needs and problems." In fact, the proposals are unclear about the future of those bodies, set up in the 1974 reorganisation, whose function is to liaise between the NHS administration and the public.

The question must be raised whether, by focusing attention on administrative 'waste', the government is neglecting the real problems: namely, the need to improve inequalities in the running of the service between social classes and regions, and the

need to educate the community in its understanding and prevention of ill-health.

ST MATTHEWS

Tower Hamlets District Management Team's attempts to close the Day Centre at St. Matthew's Hospital were blocked by successful opposition by workers at St. Matthew's and Bethnal Green hospitals.

The Management Team planned to close the Day Centre on 21st December, without even putting it before the City & East London Area Health Authority meeting.

The Hackney Health Campaign sent a paper to the AHA meeting on 13th December telling members of the planned closure. The Day Centre provides a vital service to old people in the area, as well as being used by inpatients.

The AHA immediately stopped the closure; however, the Health Campaign is anxious to know the attitude of the Hackney District Team to the Day Centre, when it takes over St. Matthew's in the nearfuture.

Transport talk

Hackney People in Partnership are arranging a one day conference on Saturday 26th January to discuss Hackney's Public Transport and traffic problems. Local organisations providing speakers include Hackney Public Transport Action Committee, the Graham Road and District Resident' Group and Hackney Cyclists' Action Group. Also participating will be London and national groups campaigning against the lorry menace or for pedestrians' rights.

It is hoped that representatives from the council and various public transport authorities will also be present, but essentially it will be an occasion for the public to discuss what they think about the bus service, lorries, etc.

Displays and stalls will be erected by the various interest groups and it is hoped that food will be available.

So if you have any interests or ideas about transport, please come along.

Reality pix

A new WEA class looking at photography starts on Wednesdays for six weeks. It is called 'Visual Documentary in Hackney' and will cover the work of some of the great documentary photographers, the subjects of photography, the handicapped, picture and text and photo-montage. It is intended for practical photographers, and anyone else working or interested in pictures and images which try and illustrate reality.

Further details from:

Visual Documentary Group, c/o Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High St., E8.

SOLUTION TO HPP CROSSWORD NO. 6

ACROSS 1. Avidly 4. Get on top 9. Hip baths 10. Medico 12. Strip 13. Nectarine 15. Pillar box 17. End 18. Oh 19. Stage door 22. In transit 24. Riper 27. Official 28. Edginess 29. Sentry

DOWN 1. Ashes 2. Import 3. Lead paint 5. Omega 6. Trivia 7. Phone bill 8. Rhinologist 11. Scared stiff 14. Ventilate 16. On our side 20. String 21. Sprint 23. Alien 25. Nelly

HACKNEY

into the
80's

KIDS PAPER

communist interview

Hackney Kids' Page talks to Les Skeates, local member of the Communist Party.

Q1. What is Communism?

Communism is when everyone is equal and all wealth is owned by those that produce it - the working class.

Q2. Do you think that people in the UK are afraid of voting for a Communist party because of what they see and read about Russia and East Germany etc?

Yes, that is one of the many reasons but there are others, such as propaganda in the press. They are against Communism and the Communist party. To give you an example, at British Leyland Derek Robinson has been sacked because he's trying to save jobs and the industry, but the press are saying because he's a Communist he's trying to wreck the industry.

Q3. If the Communist party came to power do you think you could solve the problems the UK is facing today?

We wouldn't solve the problems for the UK but work with the people and help them solve them.

Q4. Would people still have the right to speak and march if there were laws and acts they didn't agree with?

Yes, people would still have the right to speak and march if they didn't agree with what was going on.

Q5. Would parliament change at all, if so how?

Yes, parliament would change. It would be more open, there would be opportunity for people to participate in the decisions and policy making.

Q6. Would there still be class distinction and a monarchy?

No, there would be no class distinction and there would be no place for a monarchy in a socialist and egalitarian society.

Q7. Has your idea of Communism been based on the theory of any one, or is it original?

Yes, Karl Marx and I. V. Lenin, but every individual has a different interpretation of the theory and brings original ideas.

Q8. What are your views on how the country is being run today?

Abysmal. It's being run for the benefit of the few at the expense of the many. Thatcher is deliberately setting out to strip the democratic rights won through years of struggle, from the working class people of Britain.

David's story

Continued from last month...

"And how is all that my fault?" asked Mr Johnson.

"Nearly everything that happens round here seems to be because of me. Maybe it would be better if I'd gone, wouldn't it? And I bet you'd be a lot happier, wouldn't you?"

"Well yes. In a way."

David then started to run back up to his room and locked his door. Meanwhile downstairs Mr Johnson struck out at Flo and said "How dare you lie in front of

the boy and make me look stupid."

"How could you be so wicked to a woman?" said Flo.

"A woman. If that's what you call yourself I don't know what the world is coming to."

Mrs Johnson then decided to go up to David's room to see if he was all right. When she knocked on his door she asked if she could come in. "Hang on a moment while I unlock the door."

(to be continued.)

Bowie

The day drew near to darkness Bowie was tired of walking he'd been walking all day, his feet were killing him. He had a pain in his stomach, the thought of food constantly raced through his mind. Clouds filled the sky rain was on the way. Bowie ran in a doorway for shelter. "O you little bastards your blocking the doorway piss off. "But it's raining, can't I just stay for a moment.

"No sling your hook or else you get my toe up your arse.

Bowie moved on, he walked trying to take big strides but his feet were paining him. Where would he go what would he do, would any body ever understand him. Is it such a crime to be gay every body thought so. Through the rain so dark on the street he saw a cafe the lights were still shining, Bowie walked over to it, it was still open he went in and sat down. Gays against racism plastered on the till, he found a beginning.

Lisa Bellenie.

Jokes

Doctor, Doctor, I keep thinking I'm a bar of soap.
Well, that's Lifebuoy.

Doctor, Doctor, I keep thinking I'm a car mechanic.
Well, just lie under the couch.

Doctor, Doctor, I keep thinking I'm a tea spoon.
Well, go home and don't stir.

Doctor, Doctor, I keep thinking I'm being ignored.
Next please!

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE
MANAGING DIRECTORS.

I was very lucky if you could call this an interview because when I got there they were warming up. I spoke to one of the group called the MDs, alias the Managing Directors. He said we have been together about 8 months. The night went on and I heard them play and if I was a critic I would have given them full marks. Then I asked them what their music was about. They said it was about death and destruction and the end of the world and

people getting run over. This is how the drummer got into the MDs. "I was working in the same place as the lead singer and he asked me if I could play. I said a little. He asked if anyone else could play and they said no, and he was so depressed, he had a gig a week later, so I started practising and was ready, so I have stuck with them since then."

They would like to go pro but they don't get a lot of gigs.



MUSIC

The bass has been with the MDs for about 7 months. They think that Oxy and the Morons are great and both groups would like to come back to play at Centerprise. If you would like to book them, write to them at 77 Balls Pond Road, N.1. Or phone 359 5012 and ask for Kevin. They will come for any gigs - here comes the snag - if expenses are paid and about 10-15 quid.

Paul Bellenie

Young WRITERS Show

At the show there was Controlled Attack and there was a story about school and poems. There was some humour. Controlled Attack put on a good show. I think it was a really good, enjoyable evening. It was at Centerprise. 136-138 Kingsland High Street. If you want to join contact Maggie at the publishing project.



Selling Hackney People's Press

I gave a Hackney Peoples Press to a woman, and she said "It is anti everything" She said. Why don't the people do things themselves instead of relying on the paper. She said "Hackney Peoples Press is against everything like the National Front, it is against Nuclear energy and against Housing"

homework

Now I have reached the third year I find I get a lot less homework. Sometimes I even get none, but now and then I get two-three hours a night.

NEW KIDS Magazine

The new kids' mag will be coming out soon. If you, the reader, would like to send us your suggestion for a new name for the mag then you will be able to join us in working on it.

Send your name and address Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

YOUR NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
MAG'S NAME _____
YOUR AGE _____

information

All listings on this page are inserted absolutely FREE.

The information on this page has been revised and updated, but we would welcome any further corrections or additions. For the February issue please send them to us by Friday 25 January. Our address is HPP, c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, London E8.

Community, Tenants Political and Pensioners Groups Groups

HACKNEY PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION
34 Dalston Lane, E8
Advice service on Tuesday and Thursdays from 10.30 to 4pm. Tea Bar Monday to Friday 10.30 to 4pm.

TASK FORCE
34 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 1620
Free advice for pensioners in Hackney. Odd jobs and visits in N16 and N4 only. Pensioners' activities and neighbourhood care in N5.

HACKNEY ASSOCIATION FOR WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE
22 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 0715

HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT
74 Downham Road N1.
Social and advice centre, aimed particularly at black people.
Tuesday 10am-10pm
Thursday 10am-4.30pm
Friday 10am-10pm

OFF CENTRE
25 Hackney Grove, E8. Tel. 985 8566
Advice for young people between 13 and 25 with any problems.
Monday-Friday 10am-6pm (open until 8.30pm on Thursdays).

FRIENDS ANONYMOUS SERVICE
Friendship House, 27 Hackney Grove, E8.
24 hour telephone service with people always willing to listen and act.
986 2233 (24 hours)
985 0973 (office hours)
986 9146 (office hours)

FEDERATION OF HACKNEY TENANTS ASSOCIATIONS
Represents borough, GLC and private tenants throughout Hackney. Contact

Steve Jacobs, c/o ALHE,
17 Victoria Park Square, E2 (981 1221).

HACKNEY GINGERBREAD
Group for one parent families. Meets every Monday at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N16. Creche available. Contact Teresa Blackhall, 729 1647 for details.

HOMERTON GINGERBREAD
Group for one parent families. Meets every other Friday at the Wally Foster Centre. Contact 985 3972 for details.

Ecology

HACKNEY FRIENDS OF THE EARTH
Active group, campaigning on safe energy, bikes, wildlife, recycling etc. Contact Jim Read, 67 Fairholt Road, N16. 802 0122.

HACKNEY ANTI-NUCLEAR GROUP
Open to all those wishing to combat nuclear power. Meets every other Thursday in Centerprise. Contact 226 1799

SUN POWER ECOLOGY CENTRE
83, Blackstock Road, N.4.
Bookshop specialises in the environment, cooking, health, education, childrens' books; also crafts and some wholefoods. 01 226 1799

HACKNEY SOCIETY

An amenity group, affiliated to the Civic Trust, concerned with Hackney's environment and architecture. Meets on the third Monday of each month. Details from Chairman, David Batchelor, Tel. 985 7937 or Secretary, Robert Hill, 75 Glyn Road E5 Tel. 986 8761.

Women

HACKNEY SOCIALIST FEMINIST GROUP
Meet alternate Mondays at the Factory, Matthias Road, N 16, at 7.30pm. Contact Pat 254 5821 or Harriet 254 6208.

RAPE CRISIS CENTRE
Tel. 340 6145. 24 hour information and advice.

HACKNEY ABORTION CAMPAIGN
Meetings fortnightly at 20 Parkholme Road, E8. Contact 249 3768 for details.

HACKNEY COMMUNIST PARTY WOMEN'S GROUP

Meets monthly - talks, films, activities. For information phone Nathalie 254 9508.

OFF CENTRE

Drop-in centre for Young Unemployed.

Free snacks, use of telephones and newspapers. A meeting place for the young unemployed.

Off Centre Basement.
25 Hackney Grove, E8.
986 4016.

Community Centres

CENTERPRISE
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9632.
Bookshop and office hours:
Tuesday-Saturday 10am-6.30pm.
Coffee bar and meeting room hours:
Tuesday-Friday 10am-9.30pm.
Saturday 10am-5.30pm.

FACILITIES:
Coffee bar; bookshop; advice, information and contacts for individuals and groups. Typewriters can be used free, duplicating at cost price. Ask in General Office.

ADVICE CENTRE:
Legal and welfare advice session on Thursdays 6.30-7.30pm.

READING CENTRE:
For adults who find it hard to read or write. Contact Sue Shrapnel or ring 254 9635.

PUBLISHING PROJECT:
Publishing books by people who live in Hackney.

WALLY FOSTER CENTRE
Homerton Road, E9. Tel. 985 3972.
Community Centre with many activities:
SOCIAL SERVICES ADVICE CENTRE: every weekday 9am-5pm.
ADULT LITERACY CLASSES: Every Monday at 7pm.

Also playgroup, mothers and toddlers group, pensioners lunch club, school welfare advice, youth club for 5-8 year olds, Kung Fu and juvenile dance classes.
See also **ADVICE** and **NEIGHBOURHOOD ENGLISH** CLASSES listings.

THE FACTORY
107 Matthias Road, N16 (next to Newington Green School). Tel. 249 3066.
Runs mothers and toddlers clubs, sewing classes, English classes, youth club, childminders drop-in group (creche provided), after school club, arts and crafts club, pensioners lunch club, food co-op and an Indian dance class.
Contact them for further details.

THE FAMILY CENTRE
50 Rectory Road, N16. Tel. 249 8334.
Information and help for all community problems. Cooking, washing, creche facilities. Mothers and toddlers group on Thursdays, 1.30-3.30pm (homeworkers especially welcome). "Encourage your child to read" class on Mondays, 5.30-7.30pm. Supplementary school now operating. Classes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Contact them for further information. Also see **ADVICE** and **Neighbourhood English** Classes and **Gingerbread** under **COMMUNITY GROUPS** listings on this page.

HOXTON HALL
128a Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 5431.
Runs playgroup, pensioners lunch club, legal advice centre, after-school junior club and writers' workshop as well as evening classes in shoe repairing, dressmaking, pottery, crafts, old-time dancing and singing. Also Women's Discussion Group and the Hoxton Drama Group.
Many events take place in the theatre each month—see the **EVENTS** and **MEETINGS** section. Also see **ADVICE** listing.

CHATS PALACE
42-44 Brooksby's Walk, E9.
986 6714. Meeting space, bar for club members, duplicating, workshop, clubs, classes, jazz, music hall, supplementary school, youth activities, hall for hire.

Education

ADULT LITERACY SCHEMES
For details of adult literacy courses in your area contact:

Carol Morris, BETHNAL GREEN AEI, 229 Bethnal Green Road, E2. 739 7790.

Donald Kenrick, CLAPTON AEI, Brooke House, Kenninghall Road, E5. 985 9646.

Graham Morris, HACKNEY COLLEGE, 249 7221.

June Hewes, HACKNEY LIBRARIES, Shoreditch Library, Pitfield Street, N1. 739 5153.

Sue Shrapnel, HACKNEY READING CENTRE, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8. 254 9635.

Cal Weatherald, Highbury Manor AEI, Jack Ashley School, Blackstock Road, N4 226 9190.
John Rake, HOXTON HALL, 128a Hoxton Street, N1. 739 5431.

HACKNEY LANGUAGE SCHEME
Teach the kind of English needed in day-to-day life. Classes operate throughout Hackney. For further information contact Annette Giles, 249 1496, or call at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N16 on Thursday mornings.

Meditation

TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION
Partnership for Progress in Hackney: regular introductory talks. Ring 254 6280 for details.

ANANDA MARGA
1 Cazenove Road, N.16.

For spiritual progress and social change.
Meditation classes for men Wednesday 8.00pm
Meditation classes for women Tuesday 8.00pm and Wednesday 2.00pm.
Sewing class Tuesday 7.00pm.

Advice

Free legal advice on housing, landlord and tenant, employment, social security, welfare, matrimonial, immigration and discrimination problems can be obtained from the following centres:

CENTERPRISE
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9632.
THURSDAYS 6.30-7.30pm.

HOXTON HALL
128a Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 5431.
WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm.

KINGSMead
Wally Foster Centre, Homerton High Street, E9. Tel. 985 3804.
TUESDAYS 7-8pm.
STOKE NEWINGTON ADVICE GROUP SERVICE.
102 Manor Road, N16. Tel. 800 37/0.
MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm.

ALLEN ROAD
12 Allen Road, N16.
THURSDAYS 7-8pm.

Advice can also be obtained from:

HACKNEY ADVICE BUREAU & LAW CENTRE
236-8 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 8446.
Open Monday-Friday 10am-5pm (7.30 on Thursdays).
Legal aid and advice on housing, rents, repairs and employment problems.

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU
1-11 Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 4654.
106 Old Street, EC1. Tel. 253 2155.

HACKNEY COUNCIL FOR RACIAL EQUALITY. 245 Mare St, E8.
TUESDAYS 7-8.30pm.
Immigration, discrimination, housing law and other problems. 986 4121.

THE FAMILY CENTRE
50 Rectory Road, N16. Tel. 249 8334.
Information and help in all community problems. Cooking, washing, creche facilities. Open all day.

HOUSING ADVICE CENTRE
302-4 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 8123.
Helps with all housing problems. Repairs, rebates, landlord/tenant, council/tenant.

HACKNEY CENTRAL INFORMATION BUREAU
Town Hall, Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 3123.

HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY ADVICE CENTRE
5 Stamford Hill, N16.
Advice and information on legal, financial, welfare, housing, social security and personal problems. FRIDAYS 7-8pm.

RECTORY HOUSING AND WELFARE ADVICE CENTRE
Family Centres, 50 Rectory Road, N16.
Help with housing, employment, health and social security and community and race relations problems. SUNDAYS 10.30am-12.00 noon.

Advice can also be obtained from **HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT**, **OFF CENTRE** and **FRIENDS ANONYMOUS**. See Community Groups listing on this page.

For MPs and councillors Advice surgeries see **LABOUR PARTY** under **POLITICAL GROUPS** listing on this page.

Arrested? Helping enquiries? Evicted?
EMERGENCY LEGAL SERVICE
Ring 986 9891. 24 hour free legal service from 6pm Friday over whole weekend.

Workshops

THE WORKSHOP
81 Lenthall Road, E8. Tel. 254 3082.
Print your own posters and T-shirts. Cost of materials only. Open by arrangement.

COMET WORKSHOP
Halcomb Street, N1. Tel. 729 0936.
Learn sewing, macrame, toymaking, woodwork. Creche available, toy library. Tea and coffee. Open every weekday.

WORKSHOP
77a, Lauriston Road, E.9.
01 986 9585 Open 10.00 - 6.00 Mon. - Sat.
Pottery workshop and shop selling ceramics and pottery handmade in the workshop. Also Macrame plant hangers, jewellery, cards and other crafts.

Gays

GAY SWITCHBOARD
Tel. 837 7324. 24 hour information and advice.

EAST LONDON CHE (Campaign for Homosexual Equality)
East London CHE welcomes gay women and men. For details phone John, 504 1110 or Kate, 539 2331.

GEMMA
Gemma Group for Disabled Lesbians, including older women. Contact BM Box 5700, London WC1V 6XX.

Transport

HACKNEY PUBLIC TRANSPORT ACTION COMMITTEE
Meets regularly to discuss how to improve public transport in Hackney. Contact Tony Jacobs, 3 Hockley House, Morning Lane, E9. Tel. 986 2303.

HACKNEY CYCLISTS ACTION GROUP
Contact Tessa Bain, 10 Kynaston Road, N.16. 254 4559



Health

CITY AND HACKNEY COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL
Shoreditch Health Centre, 210 Kingsland Road, E2. Tel. 739 6308/8351.
The public's voice in the NHS—provides advice, takes up your complaints and criticisms. Open meeting on 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm. Publishes **HEALTH IN HACKNEY**: a comprehensive FREE guide to health facilities and services in the area.

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN HACKNEY
Advice, ideas, information. Trying to contact all families in district with a handicapped child. Contact Ann Pardon, 48 Mount Pleasant Lane, E5. Tel. 808 8438.

Volunteers needed at: Huddleston Centre, St James the Great Church, Lower Clapton Rd. E.5. 01 985 8869.

THE BIRTH CENTRE
188 Old Street, EC1. Tel. 251 4076.
Information, advice, lectures and seminars on birth at home and in hospital. Open evening every Wednesday 8pm. 25p.

EAST LONDON WOMEN'S HEALTH GROUP
c/o 116 Albion Drive, E8.

STOKE NEWINGTON HEALTH GROUP
Local people interested in all matters concerned with health. Contact Alan Clarke, 24 Kynaston Road, N.16. 254 3277.

COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION
188 Old Street, EC1. 251 4076.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL CANCER CONTROL CAMPAIGN

Hackney & District branch. Meets at John Scott Health Centre, Green Lanes, N4. Contact Rose McNulty 800 3108 (evenings) or Hilda Burd 800 2124 (anytime).

Children

HACKNEY UNDER FIVES
136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

Information and support for parents with children under school age. Stores open on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Open monthly meetings on 3rd Tuesday of each month. Tel 254 9145.

HACKNEY PLAY ASSOCIATION
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9145.
Information, advice and help to people organising play facilities for children. Contact Lilian McPettridge

CHILD-CARE BULLETIN COLLECTIVE
112b Forest Road E8.
Publishes bulletins and pamphlets about child care and related topics. Collective is open to anyone interested. Contact 226 0817 or 254 2227 for details of next meeting—with creche.

Food

TOWARDS JUPITER
191 Mare Street E8. 985 5394
Wholefood shop also selling books and crafts.
FOOD FOR ALL
3 Cazenove Road, N16. Tel. 806 4138.
Wholefood shop, also selling books and crafts.

SHANTI VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT
1 Cazenove Road, N.16

Vegetarian meals.
Wed, Thurs and Fri 7.00-9.00pm.
Sat 12.00-2.00pm.
Full vegetarian meal 65p.

Vegetarian cookery classes:
Wed 5.30pm and Sat 10.30am.

Music

POETRY AND MUSIC CLUB
The Chatterbox, 1a, Chatterton Rd, (off Blackstock Rd.) Finsbury Park, N.4.
Weds. 8.00 - 11.00 p.m.
All welcome. 20p admission. Performers free.

ISLINGTON & HACKNEY MUSIC WORKSHOP
Sing-song third Thursday every month, 8pm. Free.
Ring Dave 249 0025.

HOME GROWN MUSIC
Chats Palace every Thursday at 8.00pm. 50p admission. Floor singers should contact John Lockhart on 986 6714.

HACKNEY CHESS CLUB
Weds. 7.30pm - 10.30pm
Fri. 7.30pm - 10.00pm
Centerprise Daily
Tues. - Sat.
For any information contact T. Wilson, 135, Manor Road, N.16 5PB.

Growing Support as Marshes Campaign Continues



Since the campaign formed in July to oppose the extraction of gravel from Walthamstow Marshes (see August HPP), it has attracted support from many quarters. Hackney and Waltham Forest Planning Committees both listened carefully to speakers from the campaign and voted against the loss of a valuable local amenity. Their recommendations have gone to the GLC, which has recently set up a new sub-committee to deal with mineral extraction, due to discuss the Marshes early in the new year.

Nationwide

Meanwhile, the campaign has received letters of support from wildlife organisations and from experts in various fields, all commenting on the value of areas of natural countryside in the middle of the city, and their potential for education. Press coverage has included national as well as local papers and even a spot on BBC's "Nationwide". David Bellamy, the television biologist, has shown a great deal of interest in the campaign and recently travelled down from Durham for the evening to speak on behalf of the campaign at a packed meeting at

Chats Palace. He tried to appear objective, saying that the value of marshes to local people must be measured against the financial aspect, but in the end he promised to lie down in front of the bulldozers with the rest of us.

The campaign organised an exhibition about the Marshes, which appeared first at Chats Palace for a week, then at North East London Polytechnic in Walthamstow and finally was shown at County Hall on a day when there was a full GLC meeting. All GLC members were invited and it was certainly an unusual way of lobbying them. Many of them went away impressed by the high standard of photography, having been shown that the Marshes are not just any old derelict land, but are indeed an area of landscape value in their own right; 80 acres of original Lea Valley Marsh, miraculously preserved in the heart of the city, containing a rich abundance of long established vegetation. As well as photos there were plant and butterfly specimens, paintings and work by children from Harrington Hill School. In the evening, our petition of 1,500 signatures was presented to John Putnam, likely chairman of the

new Minerals Subcommittee.

Throughout our campaign we have tried to show to the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority how the Marshes in their present state, with only some small improvements, could become a valuable amenity within their regional park. We envisage a small local nature reserve with an educational emphasis. This would be of far greater relevance to the community than present plans for water sports and yet more playing fields, and would preserve the unlimited access for local people that exists now. If we are successful in preventing the gravel extraction, we would like to form a management committee which we hope would be able to work with the park authority. Practical projects for the future include clearing the bomb crater pond which used to be an interesting habitat for frogs and dragonflies until some builder's rubble was dumped in it. We also envisage a tree planting programme at the Coppermill Lane area of the Marshes.

We have brought out a booklet about the Marshes called "Walthamstow Marsh: Our Countryside Under Threat", which contains chapters on plants, birds and insects on the Marshes, and lists the various species that can be found. It also contains suggestions about how the wildlife aspect can be enhanced. (Available now, price 50p from Jane Nash, 986 1765).

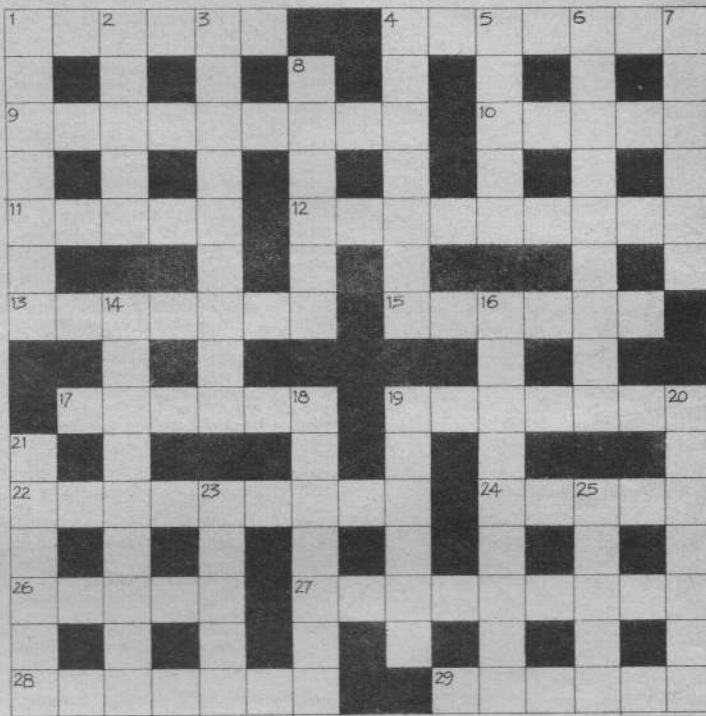
motorway threat

The Save the Marshes campaign will continue to exist if we win the immediate battle against the gravel extraction. There are other threats to the area which may be harder to oppose, for example, the recent suggestion by so-called environmentalists that a motorway up the Lea Valley would solve Hackney's traffic problems. Planners, especially those who don't live in an area are never satisfied while land remains untouched. They want to see it dug up, used, covered with buildings. They want it to provide ready-made entertainments, not realising that the places of real value in the city are those where we can make our own entertainments, where we can just find peace and quiet away from roads and traffic. People have said to us that the Marshes meet the need for wilderness, that they are different from the man-made greenery of a park. Once they have been destroyed they can never be replaced.

Therefore, the campaign will fight any proposed development that would spoil Walthamstow Marshes. It is a miracle that they have survived until now; we want to see them preserved for the next generation.

H.P.P. Crossword No. 7

Punctuation may mislead



ACROSS

1. Twisted cord round end of leg inducing sharp pain (6)
4. Present former smash round British Isles, initially (7)
9. High birth - low death (4,5)
10. Mark of the illiterate? (5)
11. Top secret patent (5)
12. It should be easy for you to put your hands on one (9)
13. Like Africa, an hour before dawn? (7)
15. Mention in order to recall (6)
17. Cut top off plantains; leave pineapple (6)
19. They're used in hospital to combat cuts (7)
22. Race down to store (9)
24. Henry meets master in board game (5)
26. An oriental artist returns to scene of conflict (5)
27. Overact? (2,3,4)
28. Bird with bloody wound? (7)
29. Leave behind on beach (6)

DOWN

1. A lot bid wildly for - a kind of 12 like HPP (7)
2. Employed, that is, around student union (2,3)
3. Intercede as negotiator (2-7)
4. When do we receive the portion he provides? (7)
5. Set back after he's excited (3,2)
6. University rower has to run out flag flown before sailing (4,5)
7. They're thick underground - especially during rush hours? (6)
8. Engine cover made with West German capital and French backing (6)
14. Manage to sow but become exhausted (3,2,4)
16. Act hurt to confuse murderer (3-6)
18. Barney oddly hid sign (7)
19. Woman with crushed hat case (6)
20. Tom, thrown around, is injured (7)
21. Dancer is up and moving, some say (6)
23. Soldier's dress in silk? Ha! Kinky! (5)
25. Give praise to a plucky sportsman (5)

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